

POKAGON BAND OF POTAWATOMI INDIANS

TRIBAL COUNCIL

P.O. Box 180, 58620 Sink Road, Dowagiac, MI 49047

Telephone 269-782-6323 / FAX 269-782-9625

POKAGON BAND OF POTAWATOMI INDIANS

RES. NO. 11-09-19-02

Support for the State of Michigan Proposed Legislation, called the Michigan Indian Families Preservation Act

WHEREAS: The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians of Michigan and Indiana is a sovereign, federally-recognized Indian tribe, as reaffirmed under P.L. 103-323, enacted September 21, 1994; and

WHEREAS: The Pokagon Band is organized under a constitution, which was adopted on November 1, 2005 and became effective on December 16, 2005 ("Constitution"); and

WHEREAS: In accordance with P.L. 103-323 and pursuant to Article IX of the Constitution, the Tribal Council is the governing body of the Pokagon Band; and

WHEREAS: The Tribal Council is vested with the sovereign powers of the Band not inconsistent with any provisions of the Constitution, including without limitation those enumerated powers set forth in Article IX, Section 2, of the Constitution; and

WHEREAS: The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians children are a vital resource to the continued existence and integrity of the Band;

WHEREAS: Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians believe the federal Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 ("ICWA") is not necessarily comprehensible or comprehensive and there are several issues for which the ICWA does not provide adequate explanation or instruction;

WHEREAS: In Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indian's experience, ICWA is not followed consistently across the state of Michigan;

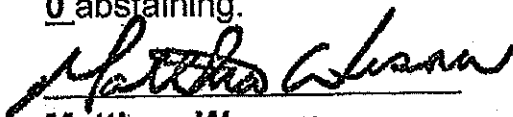
WHEREAS: The Michigan Indian Families Preservation Act ("MIFPA") has been drafted to clarify and heighten the awareness of the ICWA in the state of Michigan;

WHEREAS: Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians believes passage of MIFPA into state law will increase compliance with the federal law;

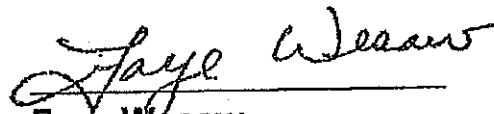
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: Tribal Council supports the State of Michigan Proposed Legislation, called the Michigan Indian Families Preservation Act.

CERTIFICATION

We do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was presented and voted upon with a quorum present at a duly convened Special Session meeting of the Tribal Council held on the 19th day of September 2011 by a vote of 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent, and 0 abstaining.



Matthew Wesaw
Tribal Council Chairman



Faye Wesaw
Tribal Council Secretary